AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A photonic switching device for switching without contention data in the form of optical packets, said device ~~including~~ comprises:

a space switching matrix with a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports and a unit external to said space switching matrix ~~including~~ comprising a buffer memory common to all said output ports of said matrix, wherein each of said output ports provides access to said buffer memory via a space switching stage ~~consisting of~~ comprising switches having a 1-to-2 switching function.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 1, wherein said buffer memory ~~consists of~~ comprises optical delay lines.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 1, wherein said 1-to-2 space switching function of each of said output ports of said matrix is implemented by ~~means of~~ optical amplifier switches.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 1, wherein said 1-to-2 space switching function of each of said output ports of said matrix is implemented by ~~means of~~ an

opto-electronic switch ~~including~~ comprising a photodiode optical receiver and a light-emitting

diode or laser diode optical emitter.

     5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 4, wherein said buffer memory

is an electronic buffer memory.

     6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 1, further ~~including~~

comprising a switch unit disposed between said space switching stage and said buffer memory to

differentiate traffic intended for extraction and traffic having to enter said buffer memory to be

delayed.

     7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The device claimed in claim 6, wherein said switch unit

~~consists of~~ comprises as many individual 1-to-2 switches as there are output ports in the space

switching matrix.